**What constitutes Action Research?**

* Action researchers typically use their own students in their study.
* The teacher-researcher usually participates in the research.
* Action research can combine both quantitative and qualitative measures.
* The most common goal of practical research is to reflect on one's practice and attempt to improve it.
* Action researchers are NOT impartial third parties to the topic of the study.
* Action research projects can involve an external partner with research expertise.
* During the action research process, the researcher collects data twice.
* An individual teacher typically is the person to perform an action research study.

**Steps in conducting Action Research: (Bold are unique to AR)**

1. Choose a manageable problem to address.
2. Determine the design of the study
3. **Collect data- usually baseline data before the intervention has taken place.**
4. Implement the new program or intervention over a set period of time.
5. Collect further data during the new program or intervention.
6. Analyze the data as a team of stakeholders.
7. **Determine an Action Plan based on your findings.**

**Practical Action Research: “The Most Common Action Research”**

The study of a specific issue to inform immediate practice.

*Example*: A teacher wants to evaluate the use of immediate feedback to improve the motivation of his/her fifth grade reading class.

**Political Action Research:**

Designed to precipitate change on a important issue. Important vehicle for advocating for the rights of children or people with little power.

*Example*: A teacher wants to study the effect of providing an adult learning community for parents of children in her classroom.

**Participatory Action Research:**

A collaborative effort to study and solve a common problem.

*Example*: The staff of a school wants to conduct a study to evaluate the effectiveness of a new attendance program that the school has initiated.

**Limitation:**

The most important weakness of action research to be aware of is lack of objectivity. A second limitation can be the lack of generalizability.

More Information of the various forms and guidelines in Action Research:

<http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/ari/ari-papers.html>

<http://www.alliance.brown.edu/dnd/ar_websites.shtml>

